



Derby Update

Friday, May 3, 2019

HAIKAL OUT OF DERBY; LEAVES FIELD OF 19

LOUISVILLE, KY (Friday, May 3, 2019) – At 6:35 (all times Eastern) Friday morning, trainer **Kiaran McLaughlin** confirmed that **Shadwell Farm** homebred **Haikal** is scratched from Saturday's Kentucky Derby (GI). The son of **Daaher** developed an abscess in his left front hoof.

"We put shoes back on him this morning and jogged him and he was still not 100 percent," McLaughlin said.

BODEXPRESS – **Top Racing LLC, Global Thoroughbred and GDS Racing Stable's** **Bodexpress** galloped a mile at Churchill Downs Friday morning.

Trainer **Gustavo Delgado** will saddle his second Kentucky Derby starter Saturday. The Venezuela legend, who was the all-time winningest trainer in his homeland before venturing to the U.S. in 2014, saddled **Majesto** for an 18th-place finish in the 2016 Run for the Roses.

"He is my hero," said **Gustavo Delgado Jr.**, Delgado's son and assistant trainer.

Although he had enjoyed immediate success upon arriving in South Florida, Delgado lost a major client last year and business slowed.

"When he lost his main client, he thought about retiring. He wanted me to take over," the younger Delgado said. "Being here again ... he did the right thing."

Bodexpress, a maiden who finished second behind **Maximum Security** in the Florida Derby (GI), will be jockey **Chris Landeros**' first Derby mount.

BY MY STANDARDS – **Allied Racing Stables' By My Standards**, with trainer **Bret Calhoun** and his assistants, **Tom Morgan** and **Dennis "Peaches" Geier** watching in the rain, galloped 1 ½ miles Friday morning.

"We're ready to roll," Calhoun said. "I'm naturally a nervous person as a horse trainer and there won't be much sleep tonight."

By My Standards will break from post three and is 15-1 on the morning line.

CODE OF HONOR – **William S. Farish's Code of Honor** galloped more than a mile under **Brian Duggan** at 6:35 Friday over the rain-soaked surface.

Trainer **Shug McGaughey** said **Code of Honor** would not go to the track Saturday morning to train.

McGaughey, who won the 2013 Derby with **Orb**, will give a leg up to two-time Derby-winning rider **John Velazquez** tomorrow.

"I'd like to see him get away good," McGaughey said of **Code of Honor**, who will break from post 13. "I hope the speed outside goes and we find a good spot in the middle.

When it comes time to make a move, I hope we have a clear run."

When **Orb** won in 2013, the victory came over a sloppy track, conditions similar to what **Code of Honor** may face Saturday.

"With **Orb**, I didn't know what to expect (regarding an 'off track)," McGaughey said. "I was hoping it would be fast with **Easy Goer** (in 1989), no one in that family liked it.

Easy Goer had finished second in the 1988 Breeders' Cup Juvenile (GI) here over a muddy track and caught the same conditions six months later in the Derby when he ran second to **Sunday Silence**.

COUNTRY HOUSE/TACITUS – **Juddmonte Farms' Tacitus** and **Mrs. J. V. Shields Jr. et al.'s Country House** appeared two of the more comfortable horses over the sloppy conditions Friday morning, each galloping for trainer **Bill Mott** during the special Kentucky Derby session.

Based in Barn 19, **Country House** had **Marianne Scherer** aboard, while **Juan Quintero** piloted **Tacitus**.

"All good," Mott confirmed.

CUTTING HUMOR/SPINOFF – The **Todd Pletcher**-trained duo of Derby colts trained early at 5:15 Friday, their final piece of exercise prior to their dates with destiny in Saturday's 145th edition of the Kentucky Derby.

Starlight Stable's Cutting Humor and **Wertheimer and Frere's Spinoff** galloped in the rain on a strip termed "sloppy."

Cutting Humor will have a new rider for Saturday's \$3 million test, Hall of Famer **Mike Smith** taking over for assigned jockey **Corey Lanerie**. **Starlight** owner **Jack Wolf** has indicated that he will pay double jockey fees (usually 10%) on purse earnings for the race. **Manny Franco** retains his call on **Spinoff**.

Both runners are listed at 30-1 in the 19-horse Derby field.

GAME WINNER/IMPROBABLE/ROADSTER – All three of **Bob Baffert's** Kentucky Derby contenders headed out in the morning deluge to gallop about a mile and a half over the Churchill Downs oval.

Grade I winners **Roadster** and **Improbable** hit the track during the special training period from 5:15-5:30 with the former going along for an easy gallop under **Humberto "Beto" Gomez** and his stablemate doing the same under the guidance of **Jose Contreras**. **Gomez** then headed back to hop on **Game Winner**, who also took a spin around the drenched going as assistant trainer **Jimmy Barnes** kept watch aboard his pony.

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With rain slated to have a presence all day Saturday, who handles the off going best will be a key intangible for the first leg of the Triple Crown. Improbable raced over a sealed, sloppy Oaklawn Park track when finishing second to **Omaha Beach** in the Arkansas Derby (GI) an effort that was even more admirable considering his gate antics before the start of the race.

Improbable wore blinkers for the first time that day but will not race with them Saturday.

"Improbable, his motor runs a little hotter than most of them," Baffert said. "I think I've got three nice horses but it's still a very wide open race. There are 10 horses that I think are within a length of each other. It's whoever gets the trip. And especially now that it's going to rain, we don't know what is going to happen. It's too bad the weather is not going to work with us. We'll just have to deal with it."

GRAY MAGICIAN – **Wachtel Stable**, **Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners** and **Gary Barber's UAE Derby (GII)** runner-up **Gray Magician** left Barn 39 with assistant **Ashlie Campbell** aboard and jogged over the sloppy main Churchill Downs track Friday morning.

Trainer **Peter Miller** confirmed that the son of **Graydar** is on schedule to become the conditioner's second Kentucky Derby (GI) starter following well-beaten finish by **Comma to the Top** in 2011 behind **Animal Kingdom**.

Unlike that speedster, Gray Magician is flush with stamina and expected to relish the 10 furlongs of the main event.

"The majority of the horses don't want the distance in this race," Miller said. "Maybe half a dozen will handle it and our horse is one of them. Some will have the talent to take them farther than their pedigree, but this horse, the way he finishes up his races, will love it."

HAIKAL – Trainer **Kieran McLaughlin** confirmed Friday morning that Shadwell Farm homebred **Haikal** is scratched from Saturday's Kentucky Derby (GI). The son of **Daaher** developed an abscess in his left front hoof that was reported by his connections Thursday and it was hoped he would be able to train Friday after treating the issue.

"We put shoes back on him this morning and jogged him and he was still not 100 percent," McLaughlin said. "After speaking with **Rick Nichols**, we decided to scratch. The horse always comes first. He will head home today to Shadwell (in greater Lexington) and live to fight another day.

"It's tough for the whole team, His Highness (**Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum**) and everyone involved, especially with being a homebred who was training so well. We'll have to see what else is there is now (race-wise) after he recovers."

Nichols is the vice president and general manager of Sheikh Hamdan's North American Shadwell operations, one of the largest and most powerful racing and breeding entities in the world.

LONG RANGE TODDY – **Willis Horton's Long Range Toddy** had a light one-mile gallop Friday morning over the "sloppy" surface at Churchill Downs.

"It's out of our control now, we're ready." Hall of Fame trainer **Steve Asmussen's** assistant **Scott Blasi** said.

Long Range Toddy will be ridden by 58-year-old **Jon Court** and is 30-1 on the morning line.

MASTER FENCER – **Katsumi** and **Yasuyo Yoshizawa's Koichi Tsunoda**-trained **Master Fencer** soaked up his surroundings Friday morning, quite literally. Under a deluge on the main dirt track, the first Japanese-bred to tackle the Run for the Roses cantered two laps of the track under exercise rider **Yosuke Kono**; one markedly slow and one at a steady pace. He then walked another lap before heading back to the Quarantine Barn.

"He's never ran in a Grade I, but we hope he can run well," Tsunoda said through a translator. "I'm really glad to see that he is comfortable here. In his last race, he was pretty childish. I think he has a lot of ability. He still has some potential to improve. We expect him to hopefully run in the Kentucky Derby to his full ability."

MAXIMUM SECURITY – **Gary** and **Mary West's Maximum Security** galloped a 1 3/8 miles Friday morning over a sealed sloppy track at Churchill Downs.

"It looked like he went over it really well," trainer **Jason Servis** said.

Maximum Security, who is undefeated in four career starts, captured an optional claiming starter allowance over a muddy Gulfstream Park track in his second start.

The son of **New Year's Day** breezed three times at Palm Meadows Training Center in Boynton Beach, Florida, since registering a front-running 3 1/2-length victory in the March 30 Florida Derby (GI) and before shipping to Churchill Downs this week.

"Things have gone OK, getting on the plane and all that, but he's had a couple breezes that were slower than I wanted. That's been on my mind," Servis said. "He just ran a mile and an eighth, but he went slower than I wanted to go. But he's had three breezes after the Florida Derby, so I can't imagine he's not fit."

Luis Saez, who was aboard for the Florida Derby score, has the return mount.

PLUS QUE PARFAIT – **Imperial Racing's** UAE Derby (GII) champion **Plus Que Parfait** galloped an easy lap of the sloppy Churchill Downs dirt track during the special training track with **Brendan Walsh's** assistant **Tom Molloy** in the saddle. The son of **Point of Entry** appeared more comfortable than most over the off going.

"I barely asked him to do anything," Molloy said. "He didn't mind the mud one bit at all."

Walsh's first Kentucky Derby (GI) starter has one start over wet going, when a game second over Churchill Downs' sealed sloppy going in the Kentucky Jockey Club (GII) in late November.

TAX – **R. A. Hill Stable**, **Reeves Thoroughbred Racing**, **Hugh Lynch** and **Corms Racing Stable's Tax** jogged once around the sealed sloppy track Friday morning at Churchill Downs.

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Trainer **Danny Gargan** said his isn't worried about the prospect of a wet track for the Kentucky Derby (GI).

"He's by **Arch** out of a **Giant's Causeway** mare," Gargan said. "I'm not really concerned about it."

Gargan is pleased with Tax's preparation for the Derby since his second-place finish in the April 6 Wood Memorial (GII) at Aqueduct.

"He's been training tremendously. We only worked him one time and he worked good," Gargan said. "I really don't have any concerns. If he's good enough, he'll win the race. He's the type of horse who shows up, so he's going to run his race."

Junior Alvarado has the return call aboard the gelding who began his career with a second-place finish in a \$30,000 maiden claiming race Sept. 29 and who was claimed for \$50,000 three weeks later at Keeneland.

VEKOMA – **Randy Hill** and **Mike Gatsas'** Blue Grass Stakes (GII) winner **Vekoma** galloped a mile and quarter under **Cindy Hutter** during the 5:15-5:30 training window for Oaks and Derby horses.

Trainer **George Weaver** said Vekoma would not go to the track in the morning to train.

Following the victory at Keeneland, Weaver took Vekoma back to his Florida base at Palm Beach Downs where he had two works. The latter came last Friday, a bullet five furlongs in :59.95 in company with **Majestic Dunhill** who will run in Saturday's \$500,000 Churchill Downs (GI).

"Everything has been smooth (since the Blue Grass) and the horse seems happy," said Weaver, who is saddling his second Kentucky Derby starter.

Javier Castellano has the mount on Vekoma, a winner of three of four starts and the first horse to win the Blue Grass in just his fourth start since **Coaltown** in 1948.

Weaver has a simple request for how he would like to see the race unfold.

"I'd like to see my horse in front at the wire the second time around," Weaver said.

WAR OF WILL – The striking son of **War Front**, **War of Will**, took it easy during a rain-logged morning Friday and just jogged under exercise rider **Jose Vasquez**.

"I had thought about maybe galloping because we run so late tomorrow but (didn't) after seeing the track and the rain," trainer **Mark Casse** said.

Casse stated again that it "doesn't hurt my feelings" seeing rain in the forecast for Saturday given the form War of Will showed over wet going when he broke his maiden at Churchill Downs last Nov. 24. And with graded stakes winner **Haikal** officially having to scratch from the Kentucky Derby because of a foot abscess, War of Will now will break from the No. 2 stall – slightly improving his position after drawing the rail from the 10-furlong classic.

"If history repeats itself, the inside is usually pretty good (when it rains)," Casse said.

WIN WIN WIN – **Live Oak Plantation's Win Win Win** galloped a mile and a half under exercise rider **Melanie Williams** at 5:15 Friday.

Trainer **Mike Trombetta** said Win Win Win may jog in the morning "if the track is open and it is not horrible."

Win Win Win will break from post position 14 under first-time Derby rider **Julian Pimentel**.

"I hope the rainy weather gets out of here, but I am not concerned about track surface," Trombetta said. "I'd like to see him get a decent spot and have something to work with. It is all in Julian's hands."

"I think my colt is more versatile than people think. He equaled a track record at 5 ½ furlongs (at Laurel) and set a track record going seven furlongs (at Tampa Bay Downs). It is hard for me to believe that he still doesn't have that speed."

PAST PERFORMANCES AND STAKES HISTORY

- Brisnet.com Free Past Performances:
<http://bit.ly/2XHAp1c>
- Brisnet.com Kentucky Derby Study Materials:
<http://www.brisnet.com/content/2019/04/2019-kentucky-derby-study-materials/>
- KentuckyDerby.com Expert Selections:
<https://www.kentuckyderby.com/wager/expert-picks>

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The Kentucky Derby Newsfeed is now available via FTP download. Files are 1080 HD and will be uploaded on a daily basis

To access Newsfeed footage & News Conferences via FTP client (Filezilla, Cyberduck, etc) use the following:

Server: ftp3.ftptoyoursite.com
Username: kyderby145
Password: 2019DerbyMedia
Port: 22

For further information, inquires or technical difficulties, please contact **Jesse Kelsey**, Vice-President of Hammond Communications Group, Inc. at (859) 492-5768.

NEW OAKS/DERBY PICK 6 HIGHLIGHTS DERBY WEEK WAGERING MENU

A new two-day Pick 6 that features six Grade I races, including the \$3 million Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve and \$1.25 million Longines Kentucky Oaks, highlights a spectacular wagering menu for the 2019 Spring Meet at Churchill Downs.

Along with the new \$2 Oaks/Derby Pick 6, the wagering menu will also feature a \$1.5 million guaranteed Pick 5 on Kentucky Derby day that will end on the Kentucky Derby in Race 12 and the \$1 million guaranteed Bourbon Double for the Old Forester Turf Classic (GI) and Kentucky Derby. The 50-cent Pick 5, arguably the fastest growing wager in the U.S., features a 15% takeout. The Bourbon Double has a \$1 minimum denomination.

The Oaks/Derby Pick 6, which has a \$250,000 guaranteed pool, has a mandatory payout with a 15% takeout. The wager will begin Friday with the \$500,000 La Troienne – a 1 1/16-mile event for fillies and mares 4-year-olds and up, followed by the Kentucky Oaks – run at 1 1/8 miles for 3-year-old fillies. Saturday's races include the \$500,000 Humana Distaff – for fillies and mares 4-years-old and up at seven furlongs; the \$500,000 Churchill Downs – for 4-year-olds and up run at seven furlongs; the \$1 million Old Forester Turf Classic – for 4-year-olds and up run at 1 1/8 miles on the Matt Winn Turf Course; and the 1 1/4-mile Kentucky Derby.

The wagering menu will also include the 20-cent Single 6 Jackpot which began on Opening Night, April 27, and run through the entirety of the Spring Meet, including Oaks and Derby days. To win the entire Single 6 Jackpot, a player must have the only winning combination. If there are multiple winning combinations, 90 percent of the pool will be paid out and 10 percent will carry to the next day's card. The Single 6 Jackpot takeout is 15%.

Head-to-head wagers, which were approved earlier this month by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, will not be offered this year.

The full list of post times and wagering offerings are available here: <https://www.churchilldowns.com/racing-wagering/toteboard/post-times>.

TWINSPIRES.COM OFFERS KENTUCKY DERBY TRAINING COMMENTARY

Renowned clocker **Gary Young** is in Louisville to lend his keen eye to TwinSpires.com in assessing how this year's Kentucky Derby entrants are training leading up to the Greatest Two Minutes in Sports on May 4 at Churchill Downs.

Young has a reputation among owners, breeders, and handicappers as one of the best clockers in the game, and his insight into a horse's development is prized by some of the most prominent owners in horse racing.

Scott Shapiro has hosted Young daily following morning training to pick the clocker's brain about who figures to fire his best shot on Saturday. To watch the videos, which include footage of the morning workouts, visit TwinSpires.com <https://www.twinspires.com/blog/2019/05/01/what-to-take-away-from-kentucky-derby-contender-works-with-clocker-gary-young>

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